Uncle Sam's German Warships To Reach New York This Week

Five Vessels Allotted to America by the Allied Commission

ON WEDNESDAY, August 4, five of the finest warships of the once great German navy will arrive at New York. These ships were allotted to the United States by the Allied Naval Commission.

The largest and most important ship in the group is the dreadnought Ostfriesland. The Ostfriesland was laid down at the Wilhelmshaven dockyard in October, 1908, as a unit of the German 1908 naval program. This program called for three other battleships of the same type. The sister ships to the Ostfriesland are the Thuringen, which has been allotted to France; the Oldenburg, which has been retained by England, and the Helgoland, which is at present in some German port, dismantled and in very bad condition. The Ostfriesland was launched in September, 1909, and completed in August, 1911. Little did the Germans think at that time that within ten years the ship which was then the pride of the German navy would be riding at anchor in the Hudson River, under the American flag, a captive.

Quarters Uncomfortable

The dimensions of her hull are as follows: Length, 546¼ feet on the water line, the beam is 93¼ feet, and the draft is 26.9 feet at normal load displacement and 29.5 feet at full load displacement. The normal displacement was originally designed at 22,000 tons, but the Ostfriesland was built during a period of rapid development in warship construction, and changes forced the normal displacement up to 22,440 tons. She can be loaded up quite a bit, and it is said that she once touched 25,300 tons at full load displacement. The war complement is 1,107 officers and men, stowed away in most uncomfortable quarters. During the war, is it said, whenever possible the complement was placed ashore in barracks. This cramped condition may be traced to the improvements on the ship after she had been nearly completed.

For the day in which she was built the Ostfriesland is very heavily armed. For a main battery she carries twelve 12-inch 50-caliber Krupp naval rifles. The guns are mounted two in a turret, one turret fore, one turret aft and two turrets on each beam. They weigh 52.2 tons each and fire a shell weighing 859.8 pounds at a velocity of 3,080 feet a second, giving an energy of 56,435 foot tons. The secondary battery consists of fourteen 5.9-inch 45-caliber guns, mounted seven on each side of the ship. When the vessel was first completed it carried a battery of fourteen 3.4-inch guns, but when the war was on in earnest they were removed to be mounted on small auxiliary ships, and their place was taken by four 3.4-inch 22-pounder high angle anti-aircraft guns. The torpedo battery consist of one bow, one stern and four broadside submerged 19.7-inch torpedo tubes.

Well Protected

The Ostfriesland was one of the best protected ships of her day. The belt is 11.8 inches thick amidships, tapering to 5.9 inches at the bows and 3.4 inches at the stern. The turrets are of 12-inch armor and are supported by barbettes of 11-inch. The forward conning tower is 11¾ inches thick and the aft signal tower is 5.9 inches thick. The 5.9-inch gun battery is protected by a like thickness of armor. A modern feature of her protection is the sloping protective deck behind the belt of 3.4 inches. This belt gives the additional protection to the engines that is demanded in a modern warship. The vessel is well bulkheaded; in fact, this feature saved the vessel when she was mined, shortly after the Battle of Jutland. The internal armor is to the extent of several hundred tons. All of the armor and protective steel was made at the Krupp works in Essen.

The Ostfriesland, together with her three sister ships and the four dreadnoughts of the Westfallen class, formed the famous German first battle squadron which, under the command of Rear Admiral Schmidt, took such an important part in the Battle of Jutland.

This squadron went into action at about 5 o'clock in the afternoon of May 31, 1916. The battle became general and progressed until about 8:30 o'clock, when the Germans started to retreat.

When it became apparent that the Germans must retreat Admiral Jellicoe ordered the British destroyer mine layer Abdiel to lay her complement of mines in the probable path of the enemy's retreat. The Abdiel executed this order in a most brilliant manner, entirely encircling the German fleet and laying her mines in a way that it was impossible for the uninformed Germans to escape.

Sunk the Black Prince

While the Ostfriesland was not fought very hard in the daylight action, with dusk came the burden of bringing up the van of a retreating fleet with the rest of her squadron. During the dusk action the Ostfriesland is credited with sinking the British armored cruiser Black Prince in almost less time than it takes to tell it. As darkness fell the Germans were then subjected to the most intrepid and daring destroyer attacks known to history. The ships of the First Battle Squadron were repeatedly driven into disorder by the British.

When daylight came the Ostfriesland was steaming quietly along with the rest of her squadron when suddenly there was a terrific explosion, and the ship seemed to be lifted entirely out of the water. Water poured into the bulkheads, but, though badly strained, they held. The ship was in a sinking condition. Several destroyers rushed to her aid and a light cruiser stood by to lend all possible assistance. Wireless calls were sent to Brunsbüttel, Cuxhaven and Wilhelmshaven, and soon tugs, various salvage vessels and yard craft came to her assistance. She was towed to the Wilhelmshaven dockyard, where she was repaired, and soon she resumed her place in the depleted German fleet.

Contrary to the popular belief, this vessel was not one of those surrendered and sunk at Scapa Flow. The surrender of the Ostfriesland was not demanded until after the Germans had broken their pledge of honor.

Next in order of size and importance comes the fast scout cruiser Frankfurt. She was laid down at the Kiel dockyard in December, 1913; launched in March, 1915, and completed in August of the same year. Her dimensions are: Length, 465 feet; beam, 45.5 feet; draft, normal, about 17 feet. The normal displacement is 5,100 tons, and the full load displacement is about 6,000 tons. The armament consists of eight 5.9-inch 50-caliber rifles and two 3.4 inch 22-pounder high angle anti-aircraft guns. The torpedo battery is reported as four 19.7-inch torpedo tubes, two on deck and two submerged. The lesson given in high-speed mine laying by the British in the Battle of Jutland was well learned by the Germans, and the Frankfurt is fitted to carry and lay 120 mines.

A Hard Fighter

One of the hardest worked German fast cruisers, the Frankfurt has been almost constantly at sea since the date of her commission. In the Battle of Jutland she was one of the first ships in action, and she had the honor of being the first to report the British fleet to the main line. In the first moments of the battle she was well in advance of the battle fleet, taking a major part in the cruiser and destroyer actions which always precede a modern naval action. During that very trying night which followed the battle she was busily engaged in warding off the attacks of the British destroyers. A similar feature connected with this battle is that in spite of the prominent part played by the Frankfurt the British failed to recognize her, and in the various stories of the battle the Frankfurt's presence is merely stated as possible. ("Possibly present, but unidentified.")

The Frankfurt was one of the few German ships able to put to sea after the battle, and up to the end of the war she was almost constantly in service. Her surrender was demanded by the Allied Naval Commission under the terms of the armistice, and she was surrendered on November 21 with the main German fleet. In the attempt of the Germans to sink their ships at Scapa Flow the Frankfurt was beached, full of water. Because of her long sojourn in the mud her engines cannot move, and she is being towed to this country by the United States transport Hancock.

The destroyers allotted to us come from the muddy bottom of the Scapa Flow anchorage. Their engines are useless, and they are being towed to this country by the mine sweepers Falcon, Rail and Redwing.

The largest boat among them is the G-102, which was built for the Argentine government as the Santiago. She is larger than any destroyer in our navy by thirty-five tons, having a displacement of 1,250 tons.

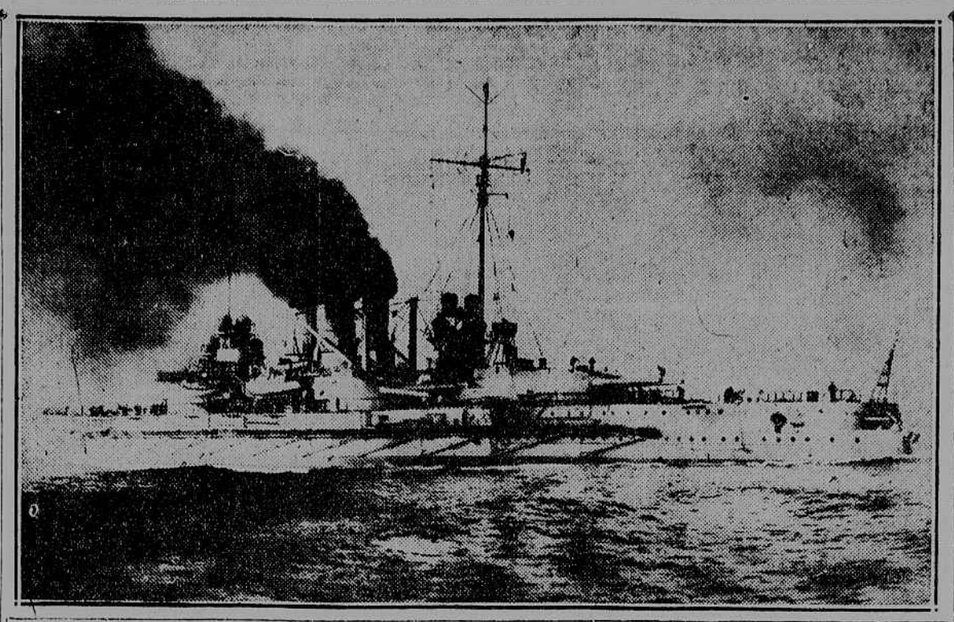
The S-132 is the next destroyer in order of importance. She was built at the Schichau Shipbuilding Works at Danzig. She is of about 600 tons displacement. Her length is 270 feet, beam about twenty-seven feet, and she draws about nine feet of water. The armament consists of three 4.1 inch guns, two machine guns and some 19.7-inch torpedo tubes. The ship has a speed of thirty-four knots, and is driven by turbines. The boilers are of the oil-burning type.

Last comes the V-43. She was built at the yard of the Vulcan Shipbuilding Company at Stettin, and was launched in 1915.

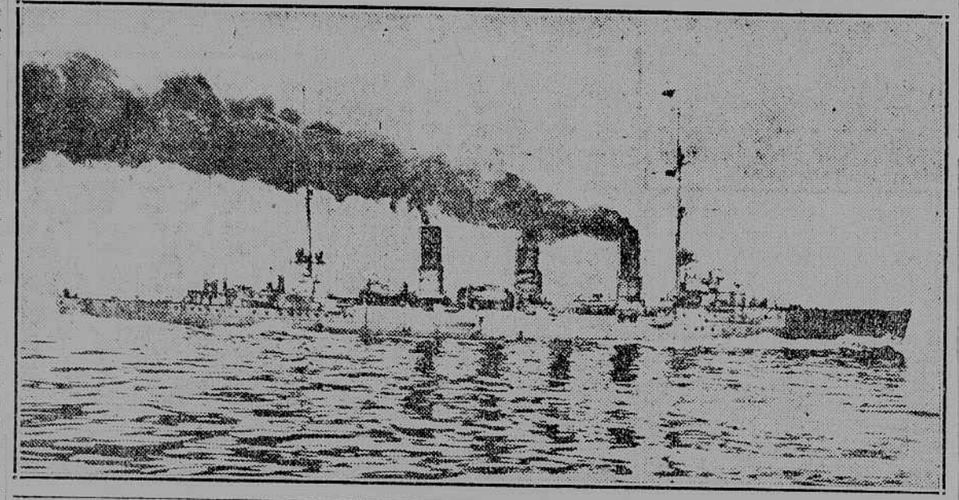
Must Be Broken Up

The ships were taken over at Rosyth, Scotland. As the Ostfriesland proceeds to this country under her own power it was necessary to place a crew of 300 men aboard. Twelve men were assigned to the Frankfurt and five to each of the destroyers. Under the conditions of the turning over of these ships to the United States they are to be broken up or sunk within the year. This solves the question of the disposition of all but one of the ships.

At present there are but three poor excuses for fast cruisers in our navy. True, there are ten further ships under construction, but even with these vessels the United States Navy will be lacking in scout cruisers. Considering the fact that both France and Italy have received German fast cruisers to be incorporated into their respective fleets, and considering the great need of such vessels in our service, it might be possible for us to refit the Frankfurt for service with our fleet. It would seem that the Allied council would gladly give us permission.



THE OSTFRIESLAND, once the pride of the German navy, is one of the ships awarded to the United States by the Allied Naval Commission



THE FRANKFURT, a hard fighting German cruiser, now the property of the United States

Auction Bridge

By R. F. Foster

Author of "Foster on Auction," "Auction Made Easy," "Foster's Complete Hoyle," etc.

IN any discussion of bidding values one must remember that it is the value to the declarer, because all bidding is aimed at getting the contract to play the hand. An ace is considered a sure trick to any player at the table; but, as we have seen, it is worth two tricks to the declarer. This being so, any combination of cards should be worth double its face value to the declaring hand; but would immediately drop to its normal value if the bidder failed to get the contract.

This brings us to the question of what normal value should be attached to certain combinations of cards other than the one we have discussed, ace and king of the same suit. We want four trick values to make a bid; not necessarily all in the same suit, but in the hand as a whole. There is one essential qualification, however, which is that at least two of the total values must be in the suit named if we are going to call a suit. We cannot bid a heart if all our sure tricks are in clubs and spades.

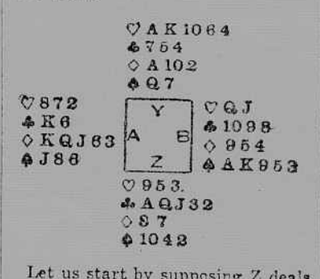
If you say you have $1 in your pocket that does not necessarily mean that you have four $1 bills. The amount may be made up of bills and small change. Any one will admit you have $4 if you have two $1 bills, two half dollars and four quarters.

It is the same way with your high cards when you call a suit. You indicate four trick values in your hand, but they may not be two aces, or an ace-king suit. There are three standard combinations of high cards that are good for two sure tricks to any player at the table, or four to the declarer. These should be thoroughly familiar to every player, as they are the foundation of all bidding and the minimum that justifies a call when there is nothing in any other suit.

A K, A Q J, K Q J, with smaller cards.

In the second, if you lose queen or jack to the adverse king the other two cards are good. In the third, if you lose one to the ace the remaining two are good for two tricks. If you are bidding you call these worth four tricks.

Now let us look at a hand which contains all three of these standard combinations and check up the results of the application of our theory. Any one of the four may be the dealer. Any of the four suits may be the trump. The original hand came up in an ordinary duplicate game.



Let us start by supposing Z deals. He finds a club suit headed by four values and bids it. If the hand is played at clubs his dummy lays down an A-K suit, worth four, and another ace, worth two; total, six. Add this to declarer's four and we get ten. Play the hand and Z will win ten tricks, unless A shifts to spades, instead of leading the third round of diamonds, which would be the natural play. He cannot lose the game.

Suppose A deals and bids a diamond on his four values in the suit and an outside king, which we shall call one more, total five. If he plays the hand, dummy lays down four tricks in spades, nothing else. Add these to A's five and we get nine, and A will make nine tricks with diamonds for trumps, by ruffing the third heart before leading out dummy's trumps.

Suppose Y deals. He finds six values in his hand—four in hearts and two in diamonds, and calls the hearts. His dummy lays down four values in clubs; total ten. Play the hand at hearts and Y will make ten tricks, if B leads a club after making both his spades, as Y gets two diamond discards on the clubs after the trumps are gone.

Suppose B deals. He has four values in spades, nothing else; but that is enough for a free bid. His partner lays down four in diamonds and one in clubs, total nine, and nine tricks is just what B can make with spades for trumps, no more; because if he trumps the third round of clubs Z will make the ten of trumps, and if he catches Z's trump he loses a club at the end.

In our next article we shall examine combinations of lesser value, and the manner of counting such hands.

The solution of last week's problem, No. 12, in which Y and Z wanted only four tricks out of the seven still to be played, depended on being able to meet each of several defenses.

Z starts with the spade ace, to which all follow suit, and then leads the diamond. A and Y both duck the lead and B wins. If B leads the best heart and follows with the spade, he forces his own partner to a dangerous discard, therefore his best play is the diamond.

Unless A puts on the jack third hand Z will hold the trick with the eight, and Y gets in with the ace of clubs to make the third trick in diamonds. If B leads a small heart, mond, A's seven holds the trick and instead of the best one or the diahe must lead the eight of clubs or Z will make the five. Y puts on the ace and returns the club, Z's discard being patterned on B's.

BRIDGE PROBLEM NO. 13.

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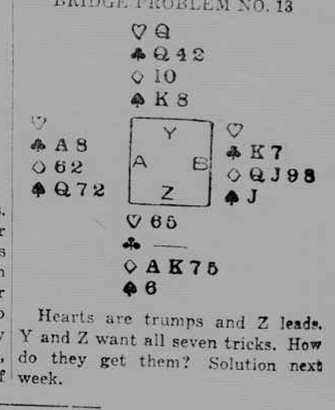

Hearts are trumps and Z leads. Y and Z want all seven tricks. How do they get them? Solution next week.

The Washing of Wesley

IN THE center of the high mantelpiece above the kitchen range stood a highly glazed earthenware bust of John Wesley. The pedestal was of canary yellow, the cravat and stock a dazzling white, the shoulders of the surplice a brilliant blue, the hair, parted in the center and falling in ordered curls below the neck, a smoky gray. The face was glistening white, like the stock from which it jutted, held rigid for all time, apparently, by the tightness of the neckcloth. The long, thin nose, compressed at the nostrils, the closely sealed mouth, the two black spots for eyes, ever looking intently, determinedly forward, as though here was a man who could make no quarter with the world, served to increase the awed reverence for one of the founders of Methodism inspired by a very early training in the faith, though it left the springs of affection untouched.

Yet that was the barber's household god, and daily it was dusted and weekly it was washed in very hot and very soapy water, to the eternal glorification of non-conformity. The daughter might dust and wash the red-spotted china dogs with golden chains and pink-tipped noses which flanked the mantelpiece, and polish and varnish the tall brass candlesticks which stood sentinel on either side of the bust until they threw back every point of sunlight or mirrored little kitchens in the softened glow of the paraffin lamp; but only an exacting sense of duty animated the cleansing of these.

To wash John Wesley was of the nature of a religious rite, and when any of the old man's granddaughters came from the city to pay him a visit they were set to dust, under the vigilant eye and the somewhat acidulated tongue of their aunt, every stave, every turning, every nook and cranny in the high-backed rush-bottomed chairs, or every crevice in the great inlaid chest of drawers which reflected back their image in its polished surface and around which hung a sweet odor of lavender. But should they dare to touch John Wesley, then the floodgates of wrath were opened.

"Had they no more sense? Supposing it broke. What would their father think of them, then? They might cry. Crying would do no good."

"What would their grandfather think of them?"

That was the final straw. At that the full enormity of their offense was borne in upon them, and they felt, indeed, as their grandfather in his most austere moments had impressed upon them, that they were not "kings and priests unto God but sinners called to repentance."

M. OCTAVE BOULLAY—BY FREDERIC BOUTET

Translated by William L. McPherson

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Here is a story in the admirable manner of M. Frédéric Boutet, one of the recognized French masters in the art of short story writing

AT BREAKFAST M. Delle had thoughtlessly made a disparaging remark about the veal cutlet which had been served him. He immediately repented his rashness, for Mme. Delle bristled up with her usual air of offended majesty. She transfixed him with that look of haughty disdain which he had come to know so well. She shrugged her plump shoulders and pushed back her plate.

"Be good enough to spare me such trivial remarks," she said, after a pause, during which M. Delle felt himself shriveling up. "If the cooking doesn't suit you I will discharge the cook. But no scenes at the table, please. You must excuse me, but in the eight years since I married you I haven't been able to get accustomed to the idea that a man should have no preoccupations in life beyond his petty domestic concerns. My first husband wasn't at all like that. It is true that M. Octave Boullay gave me cause to divorce him. But he was generous, intelligent, liberal, courteous, refined and endowed with faculties which his brilliant mind made good use of. I say nothing of his manly figure, his physical attractiveness, his natural elegance"——

"But, my dear Nathalie, you have told me all that before," M. Delle ventured, timidly.

She pretended not to hear him.

"Some sentimental adventures, which strangers cannot understand, separated us. I must, nevertheless, pay this homage to the truth. M. Octave Boullay was not one of those who live monotonously on a fixed income. With him I passed six years, made enchanted for me by the dreams of an artist, the brilliant fancies of a man of letters, the pursuit of that glory which, some day or other, cannot fail to smile on him. Who would have told me then that later"——

She broke off. M. Delle didn't even sigh. He knew by heart what his wife had just said, and he knew equally well what she was going to say. He had heard already, more than a thousand times, that eulogy of M. Octave Boullay—a man he had never seen since he had married his young wife four years after her divorce. He waited, resignedly, for her to finish her evocations of the past, so very effulgent compared with the prosaic present which he represented. He was aware that, having said her say all over again and thus relieved her ill humor, she would soon become the sociable and sensible woman whom he loved.

M. Delle bolted his coffee while his wife started for her room. Then he left the house, relieved to be alone. He sauntered slowly down the street. To-day, more than ever, he resented the perfections of this unknown M. Octave Boullay. His annoyance was heightened by a lively feeling of jealousy. Suddenly he had an idea—an idea which should have come to him long before. It awakened in him an irresistible desire—an intense curiosity.

He quickly made his plans, and that very afternoon he started to put them into execution. For a week he had no success at all. Finally, with the aid of some old friends employed in the Department of Public Instruction, he obtained a promising clew. An institution to which he was referred sent him to an obscure school in the Latin Quarter. He lost the trail, found it again at an employment agency, and wound up at last at an old bookshop on the quays which made a specialty of dealing in cheap translations of foreign novels.

There M. Delle got the information which he was seeking. Half an hour later, in a dirty-looking street near the Boulevard Saint-André, he entered a little drinking place, black, shabby and heavy with smoke.

"The king of spades! And then trump, trump, trump! That puts me out! Hector, a dry vermouth. I drink the health of these gentlemen!"

The voice, a little frayed, came from the back of the room, where a group of men were playing cards.

M. Delle, blinking his eyes in the semi-darkness, descended the three steps to the floor and walked up to the proprietor, whom he saw standing behind the counter.

"Do I know M. Octave Boullay? I certainly do. He's been a patron of mine for twenty years. There he is, playing cards with some of his friends."

The proprietor pointed to the player who was talking when M. Delle entered, and who continued to talk. He was a large, seedy-looking man. His pallid face was spotted with little red blotches. He had a grayish beard and scant gray locks, straggling down under his hat. The latter, pushed back, disclosed a deeply furrowed forehead. He whipped his cards down on the table as if he were going to split the green cloth cover. Then he seized his glass and emptied it with a gulp, rolling his eyes furiously.

Suppressing his amazement, M. Delle approached and asked M. Octave Boullay if he could speak with him for a few moments. The latter consented, though hardly with good grace. He became more amiable, however, when M. Delle broached the subject of a translation, to be paid for, in part, in advance. That was the pretext he had manufactured for his visit.

"One minute, gentlemen," said M. Boullay to his fellow players. "Business is business."

"Then we shall say, monsieur—monsieur?"

"Bernier," interposed M. Delle.

"Then I am to understand that you come from Père Louis. The old scoundrel! He will charge me a 25 per cent commission on what you pay me. But I don't hold that against him. In his place I would do the same thing. It is to be a translation from the English. . . . A vermouth? Yes, thank you. I always take vermouth. It is exquisite—the kind they serve here. I ought to know. I have been here at that table every evening for twenty-three years. Not every evening—no. At the time of my marriage I stayed away for two weeks. But that was two weeks too long, for Nathalie never appreciated my sacrifice. . . . Another vermouth? Why not? That woman never understood me. She pursued me even here, monsieur. She stifled my dreams as an artist with her petty domestic preoccupations. . . . But I am getting away from the subject. A translation? I accept. We will say, 300 francs, a hundred payable in advance. At once? Perfect, perfect. Between gentlemen a receipt is unnecessary, isn't it? You will bring me the text in eight days? All right. . . . Another vermouth? Well, I am willing. I shall see you again, monsieur. I shall see you again. And let me give you a piece of good advice. Don't marry. . . . Come on, gentlemen, whose play is it?"

He got up, a little uncertain on his legs, to bow to M. Delle as the latter went away. Then he fell back in his seat at the table and gathered up the cards with his shaking hands.

M. Delle returned home. He looked about his comfortable apartment. Mme. Delle was in a good humor that evening, but, as always, majestic.

"I was in a very curious place today," he said, negligently, toward the end of the dinner. "It is a little brasserie near the Place Saint-Michel. There are people there who have been regular patrons for more than twenty years."

Mme. Delle lost her color. She looked at her husband guardedly.

"You needn't tell me any more about it," she said dryly. "Spare me any odious details, please. I know very well what effect his despair at losing me has had on that unfortunate man."

But between them, thereafter, was never any mention of M. Octave Boullay.

School for Card Players

AUCTION BRIDGE

Question—Playing three hand, the final bid is seven in hearts, but the bidder is set one. Can he still score 50 for the little slam?—T. L. R.

Answer—According to the laws of three hand, there are no exceptions to the usual rules for scoring, as in four hand, and those laws provide that the player shall score 50 for a little slam, regardless of the fact that he is set on his contract to make a grand slam.

Question—In playing for a stake, we understood that it is usual to keep a plus and minus score. How is this done?—R. D.

Answer—At the end of each rubber the scores of both sides are added up, and the smaller total deducted from the greater. The difference is the value of that rubber to the players who had the larger total, regardless of who won two games. This difference is entered on a separate sheet, usually called a washbook, or flogger, the individual players being credited with a plus if they make it, or charged with a minus.

HEARTS

Question—What is the fairest way to score this game so as to decide the best player among a large number of entries in a tournament for prizes?—E. T. J.

Answer—If the object is to see which player takes in the fewest hearts, the best system is Howell's settling. In this game each player puts into the pool, for each heart he takes in, as many chips as there are players besides himself. Then each takes out of the pool one chip for each heart he did not take. Suppose four play, A takes 5 hearts, B and C 4 each, D none. A pays 15, B and C 12 each, making 39 in the pool. Of these D gets 13, A gets 8, B and C 9 each. At the end of an agreed number of deals, or elapsed time, the chips are counted to decide the winner. In tournaments, each player should take part in an equal number of deals, changing adversaries at each sitting.

PIQUET

Question—My adversary insists that the elder hand cannot count pic unless he reaches 30 by what he calls that is admitted to be good, younger hand having nothing, and the first card he leads. I maintain that as long as I lead and win tricks, I can count toward 30, and that whether I get to 30 by the first card I lead or the succeeding ones, I count pic.—H. McT. J.

Answer—This is correct provided the younger hand does not win any of the tricks before 30 is reached.

PINOCHLE

Question—Playing two hand, after the last card is played, A and B start to count their hands, and it is found that A has 1,040 points; B only 980. A at once calls out, and bets that the game is set to 1,250 only when both players are beyond 1,000 and neither has called out.—C. C. L.

Answer—A player cannot call out after he has started to count his cards. Even if A is 1,040, and his adversary only 980, there must be another deal. The laws provide that a player, to win the game in two hand, must not only be out but call out, and that if he calls out when he is not out, his adversary wins, no matter what his score may be.